

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE MATTERS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Voting Members

Ron Menor, Chair; Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair,
Ikaika Anderson, Brandon J.C. Elefante, Ann H. Kobayashi,
Joey Manahan, Kymberly Marcos Pine, Heidi Tsuneyoshi, Tommy Waters

Committee Meeting Held
July 14, 2020

Honorable Ikaika Anderson
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Executive Matters and Legal Affairs, which considered Resolution 20-167 entitled:

"RESOLUTION URGING MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH HARA, INCIDENT COMMANDER OF HAWAII'S COVID-19 RESPONSE, TO RESCIND THE QUARANTINE EXEMPTION FOR INCOMING FAMILY MEMBERS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL,"

introduced on July 8, 2020, reports as follows:

The purpose of Resolution 20-167 is to urge Major General Kenneth Hara, incident commander of Hawaii's COVID-19 response, to rescind the quarantine exemption for incoming family members of military personnel.

Your Committee has prepared a CD1 version of the Resolution that makes the following amendments:

A. Adds a new 19th WHEREAS clause that reads:

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2020, the Governor announced that the launch of the pre-travel passenger testing program would be delayed due to the increase in number of infections in the State and on the mainland, and is now scheduled to begin on September 1, 2020; and

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON **AUG 19 2020**

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. **167**

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE MATTERS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Voting Members

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Page 2

- B. Amends the 23rd and 24th WHEREAS clauses by replacing "August 1" with "September 1."
- C. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

Written testimony in support was received from three individuals. Your Committee received no oral in-person testimony.

Your Committee on Executive Matters and Legal Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 20-167, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as Resolution 20-167, CD1. (Ayes: Elefante, Fukunaga, Kobayashi, Menor, Tsuneyoshi, Waters – 6; Noes: None; Excused: Anderson, Manahan, Pine – 3.)

Respectfully submitted,



Committee Chair

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON AUG 19 2020

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 167



RESOLUTION

URGING MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH HARA, INCIDENT COMMANDER OF HAWAII'S COVID-19 RESPONSE, TO RESCIND THE QUARANTINE EXEMPTION FOR INCOMING FAMILY MEMBERS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL.

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor David Y. Ige ("Governor") issued a Proclamation declaring the existence of a state of emergency in the State of Hawaii ("State") due to the COVID-19 outbreak and invoking his authority under the Hawaii Emergency Management Act, HRS Chapter 127A; and

WHEREAS, in late March, the Governor's Second and Fourth Supplementary Proclamations imposed mandatory 14-day quarantines for persons arriving in Hawaii (both visitors and returning Hawaii residents), as well as for interisland travelers, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of the 14-day quarantines for arriving visitors and residents, and for interisland travelers, has reduced travel to very low levels, which has impacted our State and its residents in both positive and negative ways; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with community social distancing practices, face mask wearing, and careful hand washing and sanitation protocols, the 14-day quarantines have succeeded in reducing the spread of COVID-19 cases in Hawaii, as seen in the consistently low case counts from about April 20 to June 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, however, this unprecedented visitor industry shutdown has severely impacted Hawaii's economy, contributing to State-wide job losses that reached approximately 220,000 in April 2020, substantial reductions in visitor arrivals and spending, and significant State and county revenue losses; and

WHEREAS, reopening the tourism industry, while also minimizing the risk of COVID-19 spread, is critical to restarting Hawaii's economy; and

WHEREAS, given Hawaii's success in reducing new COVID-19 cases, the State has proceeded to a phased reopening of businesses and activities, including lifting the 14-day travel quarantine on interisland travelers effective on June 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as the State and county governments prepare for the eventual reopening of the visitor industry and the lifting of the 14-day travel quarantine for arriving visitors and residents, officials must continue to protect residents from future outbreaks of this devastating and highly infectious disease for which there is currently no proven treatment or vaccine; and



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, even with the limited and gradual reopening of Hawaii's businesses, restaurants, and outdoor facilities, the number of new COVID-19 cases has increased, with 18 cases reported on Thursday, June 18, 2020; 27 cases on Friday, June 19, 2020; and 14 cases on Saturday, June 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the rising number of new cases is troubling, even though the State Department of Health ("DOH") anticipated an increase due to the phased reopening of the economy, along with the increased crowds and opportunities for community-based spread; and

WHEREAS, many states in the continental U.S., which are also loosening COVID-19 restrictions and reopening their economies, are seeing drastic and substantial spikes in new COVID-19 cases, including states along the West Coast and in the Sun Belt; and

WHEREAS, government leaders and Hawaii residents have worked very diligently to "flatten the curve" and manage the health risk of COVID-19, while balancing the need to reopen the economy to sustain Hawaii's businesses and residents; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's low COVID-19 infection rate has been possible only because of the many sacrifices made by local businesses and residents during recent months; and

WHEREAS, the eventual lifting of the 14-day travel quarantine for arriving visitors and residents will undoubtedly bring additional cases of COVID-19 to Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, therefore, officials must proceed cautiously and remain vigilant in minimizing the importation and spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on May 29, 2020, Major General Kenneth Hara, the incident commander for Hawaii's COVID-19 response, issued a memorandum that reiterated that all military service members traveling to Hawaii for official business are considered essential travel for critical infrastructure service and are not subject to the 14-day quarantine rules; and

WHEREAS, in the same memorandum, General Hara also authorized military family members who travel to Hawaii as part of a permanent change of station to also be designated as essential travel and not subject to the 14-day travel quarantine; and



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2020, the Governor announced that beginning August 1, 2020, a passenger testing program will allow trans-Pacific travelers who test negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours of their flight to Hawaii to bypass the mandatory 14-day quarantine, which is likely to be in effect for the indefinite future; and

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2020, the Governor announced that the launch of the pre-travel passenger testing program would be delayed due to the increase in number of infections in the State and on the mainland, and is now scheduled to begin on September 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, new program will also require arriving passengers to undergo a thermal screening and fill out a health questionnaire; and

WHEREAS, although this new testing program is an intermediate step that stops short of being a full lifting of the 14-day quarantine of trans-Pacific travelers, it will provide a means for passengers arriving in Hawaii to avoid the strict and lengthy quarantine process; and

WHEREAS, although the exemption from the quarantine for all military service members is understandable and reasonable given their mission, the exemption from the 14-day travel quarantine for members of the families of military personnel, especially those family members who are arriving from COVID-19 hot spots, threatens Hawaii's low COVID-19 infection rate and could negate the sacrifices made by businesses and residents; and

WHEREAS, moreover, the exemption for military family members will be completely unnecessary after September 1, 2020, given that the upcoming trans-Pacific testing program will allow persons who test negative for COVID-19, including military family members, to bypass the 14-day quarantine; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the overall exemption from the 14-day travel quarantine for incoming family members of military personnel is illogical and unwise, and, as of September 1, will be unnecessary, and has angered and frustrated many Hawaii residents; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that Major General Kenneth Hara, incident commander of Hawaii's COVID-19 response, is urged to rescind the quarantine exemption for incoming family members of military personnel; and



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 20-167, CD1

RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawaii, Major General Kenneth Hara, the Director of the State Department of Health, and the Mayor.

INTRODUCED BY:

Ron Menor

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

July 8, 2020
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers